

Notes and Observations

NYCTEROSEA OBSTIPATA F. IN SUSSEX AND SURREY IN 1975.
 — I would not dispute that immigrant *N. obstipata* can, and quite often do, produce at least one generation of off-spring in Britain; but I do not accept that Mr. Pratt's capture of three males in the same place on 26th, 31st October and 1st November (*Ent. Rec.*, 88: 43) gives in itself even slight support to the idea that this happened in 1975. One has to look at the wider circumstances. *N. obstipata* seems to have been very scarce earlier in this season, and Mr. Pratt does not cite any previous occurrence at Peacehaven from which, after a suitable interval, these examples might have resulted as off-spring. On the other hand, I had a male *N. obstipata* in my own trap at Bramley in west Surrey on the night of 30th/31st October (the only one of the year); and I have been told of an as yet unpublished capture elsewhere on the same night of *Helicoverpa armigera* Hübner, which often arrives as an immigrant along with *N. obstipata*. For what they are worth, these records taken together with Mr. Pratt's suggest a small immigration at the end of October, 1975, rather than local breeding. The lamentable cessation of publication of the Annual Migration Records since 1968 has made it very difficult to form any firm views on such questions. Is it too much to ask that readers of the *Record* should help to fill the gap by publishing more of their own records, especially of the "second class immigrants" such as *N. obstipata*, *Heliothis peltigera*, *Spodoptera exigua*, which are not only interesting in themselves, but can also often throw light on the origins of the rarer immigrants which do get reported? — R. F. BRETHERTON, Folly Hill, Birtley Green, Bramley, Guildford, Surrey SGU OLE.

ANTICOLLIX SPARSATA (TREITS.) IN STAFFORDSHIRE. — It may be of interest to record the discovery of *A. sparsata*, hitherto unknown in Staffordshire, at Loynton Moss, an area of reed swamp and fen carr in the west of the county. The locality is a Reserve of the Staffordshire Nature Conservation Trust, having been the subject of a rescue operation in 1969 when the Trust secured 33 acres out of 130 which had been purchased for reclamation for agriculture.

A single example of *sparsata* was taken there in 1973, and in September, 1974 I found larvae readily on the *Lysimachia* growing around the margins of the carr. I took only six, and from these I bred five moths. Four of the five were extremely dark, almost black — darker, in fact, than any specimens of *sparsata* I have seen from elsewhere.

The locality is very isolated, one of a few surviving remnants of a once extensive complex of meres and fens in Shropshire and West Staffordshire. It may be that in this isolated colony a distinctive form of the species has developed. — R. G. WARREN, Wood Ridings, 32 Whitmore Road, Trentham, Stoke-on-Trent.